

AUTO/0014

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The following is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action mailed on May 17, 2004 having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on August 17, 2004. Claims 1-3, 5-14 and 16-22 were examined. The Examiner rejected each of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Merrill. In response, Applicant has amended claims 1, 8, 10, 12, 18 and 20 and has withdrawn, without prejudice, claims 6 and 17. Reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested for the reasons presented below.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)**

On page 3 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 as being anticipated by the method for detecting that a statement described in published U.S. Patent Application, "Method and System for Synchronizing Scripted Animations," U.S. Publication 62002/0008703 A1, 1/2002, applied for by Merrill et al. In response, Applicant is amending claim 1 and, as the rejection might be applied to the amended claim, respectfully traverses.

As amended, claim 1 specifies that the method is limited to detecting a statement having an operation identifier, pattern matching criteria and an attribute identifier in a "computer-aided design software environment." Merrill does not teach or suggest any such limitation. Specifically, Merrill teaches detecting and matching steps that occur in a generic animation environment that supports scripts written in the Visual Basic object-oriented programming language. There is no discussion whatsoever in Merrill that this generic animation environment is a computer-aided design software environment. On page 4 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner states that Merrill discloses that the script processor is part of a CAD system in the

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abstract. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's reading of the abstract, which Applicant submits speaks only about an animation system that provides "synchronization services" for "playback" that allow an application to control interactions between two or more characters in a display. The abstract is completely silent as to whether this animation system constitutes or supports a computer-aided designed software environment. For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that Merrill does not teach each and every limitation of amended claim 1, and, therefore, amended claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 7 and 21 depend from allowable amended claim 1 and therefore are also in condition for allowance.

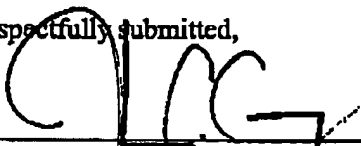
Independent claims 8, 12 and 18 each have been amended to include the limitation described above in conjunction with amended claim 1. These claims therefore are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as allowable amended claim 1. Claims 9, 10 (as amended), 11, 13-14, 16, 19, 20 (as amended) and 22 all depend either directly or indirectly from allowable amended claims 8, 12 or 18 and therefore are also in condition for allowance.

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Conclusion

Based on the above remarks, Applicant believes that he has overcome all of the rejections set forth in the Office Action mailed on May 17, 2004 and that the pending and new claims are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, please contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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